

Large Flocks of the Golden Plover and White Pelican Near Sioux City, Iowa.—On October 20 and 21, 1931, the writer had the pleasure of watching the activities of a good many Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*). On the first day I counted flocks of twenty-six, forty-seven, and twenty-five birds, and estimated two other flocks at forty and two hundred birds. The plovers were feeding on fields that had been planted with winter wheat and the sprouts were about two inches high. One field of wheat which was four or five inches high was frequented by one small flock of birds, but in every other case the birds were found on the more open fields. The second visit to these bottoms, about fifteen miles below Sioux City, found most of the birds gone, and only about one hundred birds were seen.

The first fall migrant White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were seen on October 1, when a flock of fifteen birds were seen on the Missouri River. The afternoon of October 4 furnished an inspiring sight, when a flock, carefully estimated at from 2,000 to 2,500 pelicans, was seen over the Missouri River about twelve miles south of Sioux City. The great mass of birds circled and milled around for a long time, and gradually passed to the south. I was just ready to start for home, when I happened to look toward the river and saw another cloud of white appearing from the north. The second flock contained between 1,000 and 1,500 birds and was executing the same aerial maneuvers as the first group. These two flocks of pelicans must have constituted a considerable portion of all of the White Pelicans that still nest in the prairie provinces of Canada.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

LES OISEAUX DE FRANCE. By A. Menegaux. Published by Paul Lechevalier & Sons, 12 Rue de Tournon, Paris, VI. Pp. 1-290, figs. 1-107, col. pls. 1-64, 1932. Price, 50 fr.

In this pocket handbook in the French language we find just the book that many of us need to use in brushing up in our reading of French. The information will be sufficient to hold the interest and the exercise will carry its own reward. "The Birds of France" is projected as a series of three volumes, of which this one is the first. It contains an introduction to the study of ornithology and descriptive treatment of the birds of prey, the gallinaceous birds, the doves, and the woodpeckers. The second volume will contain the water birds, and the third volume will contain the passerine birds, "qui font le charme des campagnes francaises".

The first part of this volume, consisting of the Introduction and covering the first 197 pages, includes brief discussions of zoological nomenclature, zoogeographical regions, structure of the bird, banding and migration, methods of collecting and caring for skins and eggs, insect pests of collections, and insect parasites of living birds. The second part of the volume, called the Atlas, is illustrated with sixty-four colored plates, one species to each plate. We judge that these portraits are produced by coloring the photographs of mounted birds. There is also an accompanying description of each species.—T. C. S.